

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FLORA OF W.A., No. 2.

By D. A. HERBERT, M.Sc., Economic Botanist and Pathologist,
Analytical Department, Perth.

Read September 14th, 1920.

*Proteaceae.**Conospermum suaveolente*, sp. nov.

An erect, rigid scrub, attaining three feet (occasionally more) the upper branches pubescent; leaves glabrous, except for a minute pubescence at the base, numerous, from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch long, terete, acute, but not pungent, the upper ones becoming linear-terete and suddenly dilated at the base, the dilated portion cuneate, 1 line broad and $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 lines long; flowers blue, in axillary spikes, about 3 lines long, much shorter than the lower leaves, but equalling the younger and shorter leaves of the tips, perianth $3-3\frac{1}{2}$ lines long; perianth-segments minutely pubescent, the upper concave lip as broad as but slightly shorter than the other three lobes, which are shortly united to form the lower lip; lips as long as the tube.

Locality: Kehmscott.

Collector: D. A. Herbert.

Date: August 15th, 1920.

The new species has its nearest affinity in *C. amoenum*, Meissn., to which it is very closely allied. It differs in the longer and more slender terete leaves, the dilated leaf bases in the upper ends of the branches, and the length of the spike.

The specific name is in allusion to the odour of the flowers. A field examination of several hundred of these plants showed the characters to be constant, with no gradations leading to *C. amoenum*. The spikes are axillary along the stem and do not show the same tendency, as in *C. amoenum*, to cluster at the top.

The older leaves soon fall off, leaving the lower parts of the stem bare and scarred. The constant form is that of a rigid, erect shrub, but a big, old plant may become very straggling, with branches up to 5 feet long.

*Leguminosae.**Psoralea pinnata, L.*

This is a tall ornamental shrub, native of South Africa, found growing through the swamps round Albany. It is known as *Taylorina*, having been introduced by a man named Taylor. It is well established as a naturalised alien, and is holding its own against the native vegetation. Owing to this, it might be collected as a native plant.

*Orchideae.**Catadenna flava, R. Br.*

Addition to original description.

Flowers varying from yellow to magenta.

Specimens obtained in September, 1920, at Murray River, Pinjarra, by Mr. J. Clark, are deep magenta, but otherwise their structure is that of the typical *C. flava*. Specimens showing a broad red line on the dorsal sepal and petals are common in the hills. Pinjarra specimens show all gradations from the yellow to the magenta, and can hardly be regarded as being a distinct variety. Intermediate forms are white speckled with magenta. The name *Catadenna flava* is unfortunate, as in the extreme forms there is no trace of yellow.

*Irideae.**Romulea Columnae, Sebastiani and Mauri.*

An introduced species from the Mediterranean, found amongst Guildford Grass (*Romulea Bulbocodium*) at South Perth, September, 1920. The flowers are pale violet, so it is easily distinguished from the common species.

*Fungi.**Polyporeae.**Polyporus Mylittae, Cooke and Masee.*

Denmark, received 16/9/20, from S. M. Darragh.

This fungus produces underground sclerotia, which were used by the natives as an article of food, from which fact they received the name Blackfellow's Bread. The fructification is seldom produced. This specimen was about three inches in diameter, but others are said to have attained the size of a football. It is found in all the other States, but has not previously been recorded from Western Australia, though from the account of residents the sclerotia are fairly often ploughed up at Denmark.